Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1987-88

Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board

89-02459/

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Letters of Transmittal

June 8, 1988

The Honourable F. W. Johnson
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan

May It Please Your Honour:

I have the pleasure to submit to your Honour the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board for the year ending March 31, 1988.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable Bob Andrew
Minister of Justice and
Attorney General

June 8, 1988

The Honourable Bob Andrew
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General
Province of Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan

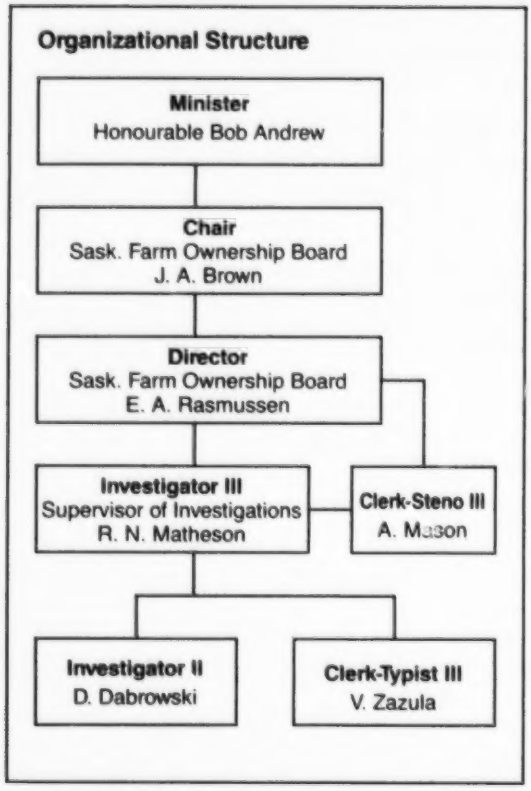
Dear Mr. Andrew:

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board for the year ending March 31, 1988.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor J. A. Brown
Chair

I. Organization



A. Board

In this fiscal year Gerald Olson, Tompkins, Saskatchewan, resigned as a member of the Board. Re-appointed were Professor Jake Brown, Chair, Darwin Lackey, Vice-Chair, Arden Body, Bill Warner, Elmer Lyke and Irene Smyth, whose term shall be at the pleasure of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

B. Administration

In the 1987-88 fiscal year, the investigative staff were required to process, investigate and document 620 transfers of land to non-resident individuals and 653 transfers to corporate interests. Staff were also required to investigate and process 194 individual and 181 corporate applications for exemption. In addition, the investigators were required to respond to personal or written enquiries and to monitor the activities of 629 open files carried over from previous years.

C. Objectives

The Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Act, 1974, as amended, is one of the programs instituted to help improve and stabilize the economic and social environment in the province. Its primary objective is to facilitate ownership and control of Saskatchewan farmland by residents or Saskatchewan corporations primarily engaged in the business of farming.

The responsibility of the Board in administering the Act includes making or advising on policy decisions, hearing applications for exemption, recommending amendments to the Act and regulations, issuing Orders for Divestment, and recommending prosecutions for violations of the Act's provisions.

II. Activities

A. Monitoring and Investigation

The Board monitored all changes of interest in rural land which were processed through the eight land title offices in the province. 11,006 transfers involving 3,033,574 acres were monitored. This resulted in 816 non-resident investigations and 311 corporate investigations by Board staff.

In this fiscal year, non-residents acquired title to 158,129 acres. The interests acquired resulted primarily from the special exemption provisions afforded non-resident relatives of present or past resident farmers. Twenty-five non-eligible individuals purchased 130 acres under the 10-acre provision in this fiscal year.

Table I

Comparative Statistics
— Non-Resident Transfers

	Transfers	Acres	Files
1985-86	456	105,271	644*
1986-87	545	137,654	729*
1987-88	620	158,129	816*

* *One transfer may result in several individuals acquiring an interest.*

In this fiscal year, corporations acquired an interest in 336,137 acres. A majority of the land was acquired by corporations primarily involved in agricultural production. Forty-seven non-agricultural corporations purchased 191 acres under the 10-acre provision in this fiscal year.

Table II

Comparative Statistics
— Corporate Transfers

	Transfers	Acres	Files
1985-86	511	176,208	323*
1986-87	552	213,816	281*
1987-88	653	336,137	311*

* *Several transfers may involve one corporation.*

B. Applications for Exemption

The Board has the authority to consider applications for exemption which, if granted, allow non-eligible individuals and corporations to have or acquire a landholding in excess of ten acres.

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 194 requests received from non-resident individuals involving 56,839 acres. One hundred and eighty-eight applications totalling 56,014 acres were granted. Six requests totalling 825 acres were denied.

Table III

Comparative Statistics
— Non-Resident Applications for Exemption

	Granted	Acres	Denied	Acres
1985-86	202	120,029	14	3,120
1986-87	162	78,537	10	1,280
1987-88	188	56,014	6	825

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 181 requests for exemption received from non-agricultural corporations involving 114,908 acres. One hundred and eighty applications were granted. One corporate request to purchase unspecified land was denied.

Table IV

Comparative Statistics
— Non-Agricultural Corporation Applications for Exemption

	Granted	Acres	Denied	Acres
1985-86	171	152,385	3	16,455
1986-87	153	178,203	5	455
1987-88	180	114,908	1	—

C. Applications for Extension

The Board has the authority to extend the two-year time period allowed creditors acquiring land by realization, quit claim, settlement or otherwise of a security.

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 58 requests received from financial institutions involving 37,487 acres. All requests were granted.

D. Board Meetings

At 13 meetings held during this fiscal year, the Board considered 375 applications for exemption and 58 requests for extension to the two year period allowed creditors to comply with the Act.

The Board classified four individuals as "residents" for purposes of the Act and two corporations were classified as "agricultural corporations".

During this fiscal year, the Board held that 13 non-resident individuals and corporations had acquired an interest in land in violation of the Act's provisions. Compliance with the Act has been met in all cases.

At year end, one case from a previous year remained outstanding as a result of service of a Divestment Order.